

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-5 (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The improvement of claim 1, wherein the improvement comprises all flexible mirroring characteristics of the group.~~ A computer system for mirroring data comprising:

a host;

a local mirroring unit configured to receive data from the host, the local mirroring unit including:

a meta-data block generator configured to generate a meta-data block for the data from the host,

a buffer configured to store the data from the host and the meta-data block;

a TCP client, and

an interface, the interface configured to emulate a storage device coupled to the host, independent of an operating system of the host;

a plurality of remote mirroring units, each remote mirroring unit including a TCP server; and

a plurality of journey links configured to couple the local mirroring unit to the remote mirroring units, the remote mirroring units directly coupled to the respective journey link.

Claims 7-26 (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) ~~A data-mirroring system which is characterized by at least a disk emulation flexible mirroring characteristic and a many to one multiplicity flexible mirroring characteristic, the system for mirroring data from primary network servers having nonvolatile data stores, over journey links, to a remote nonvolatile data storage area, wherein the system comprises~~

~~a source including at least two primary network servers, each primary server being linked through a respective local link to a respective local mirroring unit for sending mirrored data from the primary server to the local mirroring unit, each of the local mirroring units having a spoof packet generator and a nonvolatile data buffer for mirrored data, the local link~~

~~including a standard storage subsystem bus and the local mirroring unit emulating a disk subsystem in communications over that bus; and~~

~~a destination including a remote mirroring unit having a destination non-volatile storage for mirrored data from the local mirroring units over journey links.~~

A data mirroring system comprising:

a plurality of network servers;

a plurality of local mirroring units, each local mirroring unit including:

an interface coupled to a respective network server and configured to emulate a storage device and to receive mirrored data from the respective network server.

a meta-data block generator configured to generate a meta-data block for the mirrored data.

a non-volatile buffer configured to store the mirrored data and the meta-data block.
and

a spoof packet generator;

a remote mirroring unit at a remote location including a non-volatile storage and configured to receive the mirrored data from the local mirroring units; and

a plurality of journey links configured to couple the local mirroring units to the remote mirroring unit.

28. (Currently Amended) The data mirroring system of claim 27, wherein the ~~destination non-volatile~~ non-volatile storage further comprises ~~one disk partition for each primary network server~~ a plurality of disk partitions, each disk partition holding configured to store the mirrored data for the from a respective primary network server local mirroring unit.

29. (Currently Amended) The data mirroring system of claim 27, wherein the ~~destination non-volatile~~ non-volatile storage further comprises ~~one external hard disk for each primary network server, each external~~ a plurality of hard disks, each hard disk holding configured to store the mirrored data for the from a respective primary network server local mirroring unit.

30. (Currently Amended) The data mirroring system of claim 29, wherein each ~~external~~ hard disk is bootable.

31. (Currently Amended) The data mirroring system of claim 27, wherein the ~~destination nonvolatile~~ non-volatile storage further comprises ~~one a plurality of RAID unit~~ for each primary network server units, each RAID unit ~~holding configured to store the~~ mirrored data for the from a respective primary network server local mirroring unit.

32. (Original) The data mirroring system of claim 31, wherein each RAID unit is hot-swappable.

33. (Currently Amended) The data mirroring system of claim 27, wherein the primary network servers further comprise a first primary network server and a second primary network server, and the first primary network server ~~[[has]]~~ having a different operating system than the second primary network server.

34. (Currently Amended) The data mirroring system of claim 27, wherein the ~~destination nonvolatile~~ non-volatile storage is sufficiently large to hold ~~[[the]]~~ a combined current nonvolatile data of all of the primary servers.

35. (Currently Amended) The data mirroring system of claim 27, wherein the ~~standard storage subsystem bus~~ interface further comprises a SCSI bus.

36. (Currently Amended) The data mirroring system of claim 27, wherein the ~~standard storage subsystem bus~~ interface further comprises a fibre channel connection.

37. (Currently Amended) The data mirroring system of claim 27, wherein the ~~standard storage subsystem bus~~ interface further comprises a Universal Serial Bus connection.

38. (Currently Amended) The data mirroring system of claim 27, wherein the ~~journey link comprises~~ links further comprise an Ethernet connection.

39. (Currently Amended) The data mirroring system of claim 27, wherein the ~~journey link comprises~~ links further comprise a TCP connection.

40. (Currently Amended) The data mirroring system of claim 27, wherein the ~~destination does not include~~ remote mirroring unit is not coupled to a network server at the remote location.

41. (Currently Amended) The data mirroring system of claim 27, wherein the interface of at least one of the primary network servers does not include software designed specifically for remote data mirroring local mirroring units is further configured to emulate a storage device coupled to the respective network server, independent of an operating system of the network server.

42. (Original) The data mirroring system of claim 27, wherein the remote mirroring unit is physically separated from at least one of the primary servers by a distance of at least ten miles.

43. (Original) The data mirroring system of claim 42, wherein the remote mirroring unit is physically separated from at least one of the primary servers by a distance of at least one hundred miles.

44. (Currently Amended) The data mirroring system of claim 27, wherein at least two of the primary network servers are physically separated from each other by a distance of at least ten miles.

45. (Currently Amended) The data mirroring system of claim 27, wherein at least two of the primary network servers are physically separated from each other by a distance of at least one hundred miles.

Claims 46-109 (Cancelled)